Rohan Kekre and Thomas Winberry
33947: Topics in Macroeconomics– Micro Data for Macro Models
Winter 2019 (Tentative)

Course Schedule

The course is a 10-week course comprised of the entire winter quarter. Rohan's half will cover recent advances in New Keynesian economics, focusing on the role of incomplete markets and constraints on monetary policy. Tom's half will focus on using primarily firm level data to address questions of interest to macro economists. A few additional things to keep in mind:

- We will hold an extra class session during the last week of class (date and time TBD) to discuss Homework 4 in lieu of meeting during finals week. We will also talk broadly about the academic job market for economists.
- Other than the first week, we will generally use recitation if we run over the allotted time for lecture. We do not expect to hold recitation meetings frequently.
- Monday, January 21st is a university holiday. We will reschedule that Monday's class for another time TBD.

Lecture Meeting Times

Monday 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Harper Center, C04

Recitation Meeting Times

TBD.

Tom Winberry Information

Office: 377 Harper Center
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Rohan Kekre Information

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Yulia Zhestkova (T.A.) Information

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Overview of Course

The goals for this course are the following:

(i)   Introduce students to important macroeconomic frameworks relevant for the analysis of short-run fluctuations and macroeconomic policy.

(ii)   Introduce students to a variety of data sources that can be used to test, calibrate and develop models of interest for macroeconomics and related fields.

(iii)   Introduce students to quantitative models which can be used to connect micro data to macro outcomes.

(iv)   Introduce students to important papers and research questions with high empirical content and relevant to macroeconomics, broadly defined.

(v)   Get students to think hard about the genesis of research questions and the inputs into successful research.

Course Requirements

There is a lot of work in this course. Hopefully, all of it will be beneficial with respect to sharpening your research skills. Aside from attending class, doing the course readings, and participating in lectures and discussions, you will have three additional requirements: handing in homework assignments (theoretical exercise, data work, referee reports, quantitative exercises, and research development), and doing formal presentations.

Note: *Auditors are expected to complete the components of the weekly assignments relevant to class discussion.*

  (1) There will be 4 homework assignments during the term: one for Rohan's portion, two for Tom's portion, and one joint assignment.   The joint assignment will be to write referee reports for the job market papers of top macro students on the market this winter and present them during the extra class session during the last week.

      Note: All questions on the homework should be directed to Yulia (not Tom and Rohan).

  (2) Also, we will have each student present papers to the class.   We expect every registered student to present at least one paper during the term; the size of the registered class will determine presentation length and number of papers. We will assign papers and presentation dates near the beginning of the term.

Course Grading

- 70% of the course grade will be on the four homework assignments.
- 30% on your presentation of the paper and discussion of other papers in the reading group.

Grades will be based on effort, originality/insight, execution, and clarity.

Reading Lists/Topics

Rohan and Tom will provide separate reading lists for their portions of the course. See their respective web pages for more information.